

# NewsRelease

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## **LEWIS SELECTED TO LEAD NASA LANGLEY FLIGHT RESEARCH**

A former Air Force test wing vice commander has been chosen Director of the Flight Research Services Directorate at NASA's Langley Research Center, Hampton, Va. Howard J. "Howie" Lewis, Jr., will plan, direct and coordinate flight and simulation research and development activities within a broad range of space, aeronautical and laboratory research objectives. He had been serving as acting director since the Center reorganization took effect October 3, 2004.

In this position, Lewis also serves as the Center's Aviation Manager with authority over the maintenance, quality assurance, flight operations, simulation operations, engineering modifications, airworthiness as well as all flight related activities and projects.

"Langley flight research operations maintains a simulation-to-flight capability that provides the research community the opportunity to install new systems and avionics on actual testbed aircraft from general aviation craft to a Boeing 757," said Center Director Roy D. Bridges, Jr. "We are fortunate to have someone with Howie's vast test and military flight experience lead this capability."

Lewis came to NASA in February 2004 as chief of flight research operations. In this position, he was responsible for the safe operation of Langley aircraft and for all aspects of training and proficiency of the aircrew.

"I see my role as setting a vector, providing direction for the directorate," said Lewis. "In the eight months that I have been with NASA, I have been impressed with the qualifications of the flight research personnel. Together we have already quadrupled the number of projects we are working."

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Lewis retired from the Air Force after 30 years of service. As vice commander, 412<sup>th</sup> Test Wing at Edwards Air Force Base in California, he led the largest, most diverse test unit in the Air Force, a 4,500-person organization composed of military, government civilian and contractor personnel.

The unit conducted over 200 test programs worldwide ranging from simple subsystem tests to the initial development of highly complex weapon systems, such as the F/A-22 fighter and Airborne Laser Boeing 747 aircraft.

Lewis earned a bachelor of science degree in physics from the U.S. Air Force Academy and completed undergraduate pilot training at Craig Air Force Base, Selma, Ala. His early assignments included instructor pilot for T-38s, operational F-4Cs and F-15s and he was qualified in all air-to-air and air-to-ground fighter missions. He was selected to attend and graduated from the Air Force Test Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base. Having served as a military staff assistant in the Office of the Secretary of Defense in the Pentagon and as Deputy Director for Test and Evaluation with responsibility for all Air Force developmental programs, he has extensive test and evaluation experience.

A highly decorated command pilot, Lewis is a member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and the Order of Daedalians. He and his wife, Gloria, live in Hampton, Va.